

Evan's road trip quite a triumph

A 76-year-old man who is driving across the continent in a vintage car to let people know about a deadly lung condition will get a civic reception when he arrives here today.

At noon City Council's General Manager, Frank Zaknich, will welcome Jack Evans who is driving from Perth to Armidale in a restored 1929 Triumph Super Seven.

Jack's "Triumph for Breath" drive is in memory of his late wife Gill, who died in 2006 after battling Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) for 16 years.

He and his daughter Alison are retracing Percival Armstrong's and George Manley's epic 1929 drive from Perth to Sydney in their brand new Triumph.

On the 80th anniversary of the historic journey, Jack and his daughter are stopping at towns along the way to raise funds to help the support services provided by the Australian Lung Foundation.

A former cabinet-maker, Jack has spent the last three years restoring his Triumph.

"As well as commemorating Armstrong and Manley's drive across



* Jack Evans is expected to motor into town today in his 1929 Triumph

Australia, I would like to highlight the long-term damage smoking can cause. I hope to raise \$12,000, that's \$3 a kilometre, for the Australian Lung Foundation."

COPD is the term given to a long-term lung condition that includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema. It causes breathlessness which worsens over time until simple daily activities such as showering or making a cup of tea become almost impossible.

Mr Zaknich said the city looked forward to playing a role in drawing attention to this life-threatening condition so that those who have COPD and are unaware of it can take the steps to recognise and manage their condition.

COPD is the seventh leading cause of death in Australia and the second leading cause of avoidable hospital admissions, accounting for more than 50,000 admissions each year.

Anyone who has been a smoker, or is a smoker and experiences shortness of breath and/or a productive cough, should see their GP and take a lung function test.

While COPD is incurable, there is treatment that can help people reduce their symptoms, improve their quality of life and stay out of hospital.

To follow Jack's journey or provide a donation visit www.lungfoundation.com.au.